

Application No.: 10/811,426

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Docket No.: 559502001200

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were pending in the present application. No claims were withdrawn from consideration. By virtue of this response, claims 2, 7, and 8 have been cancelled, claims 1, 3, and 12 have been amended, and no new claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-6, and 9-12 are currently under consideration. Amendment and/or cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. No new matter has been added.

Concerning the Drawings/Rejection under 35 USC § 112

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

In response, claims 7 and 8 have been cancelled.

Rejection under 35 USC § 112

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 12 to recite "an outside" rather than "the outside" which cures any minor antecedent basis question in these claims.

Applicant has amended claim 3 to recite "the base current control section comprises an amplifier which." The recitation of an amplifier provides antecedent basis for claims 10 and 11. The amplifier is disclosed in FIG. 3 and description at lines 9-12 of page 10 and lines 10-13 of page 11.

The Examiner has thought "the base current" indefinite in claims 3 and 5 because these claims recite "base current control section" and "base current supply section." In response, Applicant notes that claim 1 recites "a base current supplied from the base current supply section." Claims 3 and 5 each reference this base current supplied from the base current supply section.

Claims 1, 12 are rejected under 35 USC § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over

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Mavencamp (6,175,277).

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 12. Claim 1 now recites

An output circuit comprising:

an output transistor an emitter of which is grounded, a base of which serves as an input node for a control current and a collector of which serves as an output node;

a base current supply section for supplying a base current to the output transistor according to an input signal from ~~[[the]]an~~ outside; and

a base current control section for detecting an inter-terminal voltage between the collector and emitter of the output transistor to control a base current supplied from the base current supply section so as not to cause the inter-terminal voltage to fall to a value lower than a predetermined voltage, wherein the base current control section includes a comparator circuit having the inter-terminal voltage and the predetermined constant voltage as a differential input.

Claim 12 now recites, in part, "a second base current control section for detecting a second inter-terminal voltage between the collector and emitter of the PNP output transistor to control a base current supplied from the second base current supply section so as not to cause the second inter-terminal voltage to fall to a value lower than a second predetermined constant voltage,

wherein the first base current control section includes a comparator having the first inter-terminal voltage and the first predetermined constant voltage as a differential input, and

the second base current control section includes a comparator having the second inter-terminal voltage and the second predetermined constant voltage as a differential input."

By contrast, Mavencamp compares a drain to source voltage directly to an input voltage. Mavencamp does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of currently amended claims 1 and 12 as required for a 35 USC §103 rejection. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to

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withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 12. The remainder of the pending claims depend from claim 1 directly or indirectly and therefore are also allowable, and the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection against claims 3-6, and 9-11 as well.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 559502001200. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account:

Dated: November 22, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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